

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/343,183

Examiner

Quang N. Nguyen

Applicant(s)

KATO, MASAMI

Art Unit

2141

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the Amendment filed on 12/20/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 19-30,40,46 and 49.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 30 June 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 19-30, 40, 46 and 49 are allowable.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

In interpreting the claims, in light of the specification and the applicant's arguments filed on 12/20/2005, the Examiner finds the claimed invention to be patentably distinct from the prior art of record.

Yamamoto (US 5,991,276) teaches a multipoint videoconference system that multiplexes image data and text data, and distributes the multiplexed data to user terminals via videoconference servers in real time (**Yamamoto, Abstract**).

Sekiguchi et al. (US 5,848,134), teach a method and system for real time information processing in a multi-media system, wherein a system server converts a message from terminals of a plurality of different media, such as a computer and telephone, into data respectively compatible with the telephone and the computer, and then sends the data to the telephone and the computer, respectively (**Sekiguchi, Abstract**).

Brunson (US 5,673,205) teaches multimedia messaging system allows message recipients who lack full-motion video message-retrieval capability to retrieve at least some image content of video messages via video snapshots-image frames

retrieved as still images by converting moving-image format (*first image data*) to bit-map image format (*second image data*) and transferring the bit-map image data to the user's terminal (**Brunson, Abstract and C5: L17-65**).

The prior art of record teaches the claimed invention substantially, but it fails to teach or suggest individually or in combination that a data communication control apparatus and method for communicating with a plurality of terminals, comprising: **a receiving device** adapted to receive image data and voice data, or text data from a first terminal; **a voice recognition device** adapted to recognize the voice data and to generate text data based upon the recognized voice data; **an image file generating device** adapted to generate an image file on the basis of the image data received by the receiving device; **a control device** adapted to control distribution of data corresponding to a kind of a second terminal; and **a data distributing device** adapted to distribute the generated text data generated by the voice recognition device and the generated image file generated by the image file generating device to the second terminal, if the receiving device receives image data and voice data from the first terminal and the second terminal can communicate via at least text data and an image file, to distribute the received text data received by the receiving device to the second terminal, if the receiving device receives text data from the first terminal and the second terminal can communicate via at least text data, or to distribute the received image data and voice data to the second terminal, if the receiving device receives image data and voice data from the first terminal and the second terminal can communicate via at least voice data and image data, **wherein the data distributing device further distributes**

to the first terminal, if the receiving device receives voice data and image data from the first terminal and the first terminal can communicate via at least text data and can display both first text data and second text data on one window, where the first text data is the generated text data generated by the voice recognition device on the basis of the voice data received from the first terminal and the second text data is the generated text data generated by the voice recognition device on the basis of the voice data received from another terminal or is received text data received from another terminal as set forth in independent claims 19, 40 and 46. Claims 19-30, 40, 46 and 49 are allowed because of the combination of other limitations and the limitation listed above.

The examiner finds the Applicant's arguments on pages 9-12 of the Remarks filed on 12/20/2005 to be persuasive. The applicant argued in substance that the combination of prior art of records fail to disclose the features of the invention including *the data distributing device further distributes to the first terminal, if the receiving device receives voice data and image data from the first terminal and the first terminal can communicate via at least text data and can display both first text data and second text data on one window, where the first text data is the generated text data generated by the voice recognition device on the basis of the voice data received from the first terminal and the second text data is the generated text data generated by the voice recognition device on the basis of the voice data received from another terminal or is received text data received from another terminal*, as claimed in the invention to allow a user of the first terminal can read text data (a) based on that user's own voice and also

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text data (b) generated by the voice recognition device on the basis of voice data received from another terminal or is text data received from such other terminal and by this means, the conference minutes can be drawn up easily (**see Remarks, page 11**).

3. Pursuant to MPEP 606.01, the title has been changed to read:


-- DATA COMMUNICATION CONTROL APPARATUS AND METHOD
ADAPTED TO CONTROL DISTRIBUTION OF DATA CORRESPONDING TO
VARIOUS TYPES OF A PLURALITY OF TERMINALS --

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Quang N. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-3886.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's SPE, Rupal Dharia, can be reached at (571) 272-3880. The fax phone number for the organization is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


RUPAL DHARIA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER